

Orange and Union Streets Neighborhood Study
Seth Folger House
26 Orange Street
Nantucket
Nantucket County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-1072

HABS
MASS
10-NANT
76Q-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ORANGE AND UNION STREETS NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY
SETH FOLGER HOUSEHABS
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Location: 26 Orange Street (on east side), Nantucket,
Massachusetts

Present Owner: Henry A. Willard

Present Occupant: Henry A. Willard

Present Use: Seasonal occupancy

Brief Statement

of Significance: One of the first dwellings built in the early
eighteenth century in this new location of the
town; part of the Orange and Union Streets
Neighborhood Study (MASS-1014).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1755 -- Seth Folger owned the property at this date.
It has not been determined how much earlier
the house may have been built.
- 1818 -- Heirs of Seth Folger inherited.
- 1831 -- John P. Beard bought from heirs of Seth Folger.
- 1856 -- John B. Beard inherited from his father, John
P. Beard.
- 1861 -- Sarah Smith inherited from her father, John B.
Beard.
- 1874 -- Marcus B. Reynolds bought from Sarah Smith.
- 1881 -- Henry A. Willard bought from Marcus B. Reynolds
for \$1800.
(Abstract: Records at Registry Deeds, Nantucket,
Massachusetts)

2. Date of erection: Before 1755.

(Abstract: Deed of 28 Orange Street, 1755, describes
that property as bounded on the north by house and land
of Seth Folger, which proves a house was there in 1755.)

3. Architect: None

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Not known, but typical
of the mid-eighteenth century, central chimney dwellings
built in this section of Orange Street. Probably c. 1750.

5. Notes on alterations and additions: Many changes have been made over the years. The dwelling has been renovated for comfortable living. An interesting feature of many of these houses in this part of the street is the gazebo at the back of the property, from which a fine view of the harbor may be seen.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Seth Folger was the father of Captain Seth Folger who bought the house next on the north in 1796 and died at sea on a whaling voyage to the Cape of Good Hope on Ship Alert in 1815.

In over two hundred years, this house has been owned by only four different families.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Book of Plans Oct. 1887, Sheet No. 6, in Registry of Deeds vault, Nantucket, Massachusetts; photograph of Orange Street in Nantucket Illustrated by A. Wittemann, New York: Albortype Co., 1888; Lithograph by Ruth Haviland Sutton; drawing of Orange Street in Nantucket Sketchbook by Edwin Eberman, Nantucket: S. F. Baker, 1946.

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin
Nantucket, Massachusetts
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PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of the Orange and Union Streets Neighborhood Study (MASS-1014) made in the summer of 1970 by the Historic American Buildings Survey on Nantucket, Massachusetts. This is the fifth summer project of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Director was Professor F. Blair Reeves, A.I.A., of the University of Florida. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Jack E. Boucher of Linwood, New Jersey. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, August 1971.